

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

In Memoriam

LINDLEY COATES KENT

Major 109th U. S. Colored Troops

DIED AT WILMINGTON DEL. FEBRUARY 12 1916

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

CIRCULAR NO. 8.

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Philadelphia, July 8, 1916.

LINDLEY COATES KENT.

Sergeant 4th Delaware Infantry August 13, 1862; discharged to accept promotion March 1, 1864.

First Lieutenant 32nd U. S. Colored Troops March 8, 1864; honorably discharged April 13, 1864.

First Lieutenant 45th U. S. Colored Troops June 28, 1864; First Lieutenant and Adjutant September 15, 1864; Captain December 8, 1864; honorably discharged March 23, 1865.

Major 109th U. S. Colored Troops March 24, 1865; honorably discharged February 6, 1866.

Elected October 16, 1907. Class 1. Insignia 15472.

Born March 25, 1844, at Andrews Bridge, Pa.

Died February 12, 1916, at Wilmington, Del.

Companion Kent came of mixed English and Irish stock. His grandfather, Daniel Kent, came to Chester County, Penna., in 1785, from Limerick, Ireland, being a descendant of an English family resident there, and married a granddaughter of Benjamin Hawley, who had come to Chester County in 1723. His parents were Benjamin and Hannah Simmons Kent. The Kents were prominent members of the Society of Friends, and were active in the Abolition movement. The farm on which Companion Kent grew up was a station on the "Underground Railroad."

From his early youth he was inspired by his surroundings with the best and highest influence for right and justice, and especially against the evil of slavery; he abhorred the right given by law for one man to own and sell another man. This and other like causes induced him to give up his preparation for college and, at the age of eighteen, take part in the War of the Rebellion. He enlisted August 13, 1862, as a private in the Fourth Delaware Infantry; his brother, Daniel Hawley Kent, was Captain of Co. F, to which he was assigned. The record of this Quaker family in the war is notable. Besides the subject of this memorial, D. H. Kent was Captain, and later was brevetted Lieutenant-Colonel; he received a bullet wound in the right arm, from which he never fully recovered. A third brother, Benjamin Lundy Kent, reached the rank of Captain.

The Fourth Delaware Infantry was mustered into service September 1, 1862, and went into camp at Fort du Pont. Companion Kent served with this regiment until the Spring of 1864, taking part in several raids and skirmishes on the Peninsula, and in the raid of General E. D. Keyes to the fortifications of Richmond, in the summer of 1863. He had, before this time, become Sergeant of his company. In the winter of 1863-64, he suffered a severe attack of typhoid fever, during which he was in the hospital at Yorktown, Va.

When the call came for volunteers to be examined for positions as commissioned officers of colored troops, Companion Kent was one of the first to offer himself, despite the threats made by the Confederates. He was commissioned First Lieutenant 32d U. S. C. Troops March 1, 1863; First Lieutenant 45th U. S. C. Troops, in which he was Adjutant, May 31, 1863; Captain, December 5th; and Major 109th U. S. C. Infantry March 23, 1865, two days before he was twenty-one years of age.

Companion Kent served with this regiment in the siege of Petersburg, and in the final campaign, resulting in the surrender of General Lee, after which he was sent with the regiment by sea to the coast of Texas. After a voyage of thirty days they landed at Indianola, June 25th. The regiment did duty from this time on at Indianola and at Port Lavaca until it was mustered out at the later place, February 6, 1866. It was then ordered to Louisville, Ky., where it had been enlisted in June, 1864, and was discharged March 4th.

Companion Kent was urged by some of his army friends to enter the regular army, in which they were ready to procure him a commission, but he felt that he had taken up arms only for the sake of a great cause, and that as a Quaker he ought not to make war the profession of his life. On returning to Chester County, Pa., he realized that the war had interrupted his education to such an extent that he must give up his cherished plan of going to college. He shortly went to Wilmington, Del., where several of his family were established in business, and engaged in clerical work. In 1870 he established a retail lumber business, in which he proved successful, and this he conducted until the time of his death. In 1890 he had it incorporated under the title of "Lindley C. Kent Company," but still retained complete control.

On May 16, 1876, he was married to Anna Grubb, who died December 14, 1901. On June 22, 1904, he was married to Rosamond Beverley Chambers, of Kennett Square, who survives him. By the first marriage he had three children, Roland G. Kent and Mrs. William H. Wyatt (Mary E. Kent), who survive him, and a daughter who died in infancy. By the second marriage there is a son, Lindley C. Kent, Jr.

He was always a faithful attendant at the religious meetings of the Society of Friends, in which his war service had not impaired his standing, and was an overseer in the Friends' Meeting at Fourth and West Sts., Wilmington. He was also, through long service, the ranking member on the Committee of the Meeting which had charge of the Friends' School, and in this took great pride. His interest in education appears in his two years' service on the Board of Education in Wilmington, shortly before 1880. As a prominent business man he was a director in a number of banks and other enterprises; his public spirit is seen in the charities in which he was active and to which he was a generous contributor. He was for years President of the Board of Trustees of the Children's Home, Treasurer of the Minquadales Home for Aged Couples, of the Ferris Industrial School, and of the S. P. C. A., and President of the

S. P. C. C. and of the Fountain Society. He was a very active member of the Managing Board of the Wilmington Free Library. To his regret he had been compelled by increasing ill-health, about a year before his death, to resign from all these positions, but his heart was still with these organizations and their work.

He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic for many years. He was most interested in the Loyal Legion, and was a regular attendant at the meetings until in May, 1915, the disease from which he was suffering made him unable to travel. From that time he was practically confined to the house, most of the time to his room. He was most patient through it all, despite great sufferings, and was always thinking of the comfort of others even when he was seemingly incapable of mental effort. He was buried in the Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery, having survived all of his four brothers and three sisters. His family feel that there was an especial appropriateness that his death fell on the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, whom he had always revered.

The trustees of a charitable organization with which he had long been connected have expressed themselves thus: "He proved himself a patriot, a dependable man of business, a man devoted to his family. Nor did his interest rest within these spheres, but went out, as the heart of a conscientious and tender-hearted man must go out, to all who are dependent, who suffer and who need aid and counsel. We who well understand his service to our community express our full appreciation of his character, his gentleness, his manhood, his wise counsel, his ready sympathy."

BENJAMIN NIELDS,

Brevet Lieut.-Colonel U. S. Vols.

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By command of

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